

## **Historic, Archive Document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.





November 1934

## CAGE FOR ISOLATING PEA APHIDS ON PARTS OF A PLANT

By Carl W. Schaefer\*, Division of Truck Crop and Garden Insects,  
Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine,  
U. S. Department of Agriculture

During life-history studies of the pea aphid on potted alfalfa and pea plants, it was frequently desired to confine aphids on certain restricted parts of a plant--tips, leaves, or stems, and for this purpose a cage was devised (fig. 1). To make this cage, two strips of 30-gage tin,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches long by  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch wide, are bent into circles and soldered. A strip of 16-mesh screen wire 3 inches long by 2 inches wide is soldered to the inside of the metal circles. The screen covers about one-third of the circumference of the cage. Free ends of the wire screen running slightly beyond the circles are bent backward with forceps to form barbs, and cheesecloth is wrapped around the cage and hooked on these barbs.

The cage is slipped over a plant. For many insects the top and bottom of the cage may be closed by cotton batting, but for aphids or other delicate insects, which might be caught in the cotton, the top and bottom are closed by sewing cheesecloth around the metal circles and sewing up the slits after the stem of the plant has been enclosed. When it is necessary to sew up the top and bottom of the cage, it means that the cage is rather permanent on the plant.

Insects may be handled by merely releasing the cheesecloth on one side from the wire barbs which hold it.

Figure 1. - Frame of cage for isolating aphids on part of a plant.

\* Formerly Field Assistant



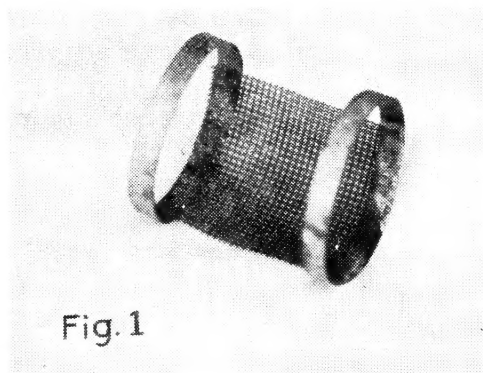


Fig. 1

